



EFFINGHAM UNIT DISTRICT 40

Mark E. Doan, Superintendent

July 8, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

First of all I wish to thank you for the efforts you have taken to help school districts withstand these tough economic times. We will continue to work to become as efficient as possible while providing our children an outstanding educational experience.

I am writing to ask for your help on a proposed scheduled vote on possible changes to the E-Rate program. The proposed changes are a threat to rural school districts such as Effingham Unit #40. E-Rate is a supportive program that helps enable our District with connectivity. E-Rate provides funding that is vital to establishing, upgrading, and maintaining telecommunications access to schools and libraries. Additionally, Unit #40 relies on E-Rate resources as part of our continually updated District technology plan.

The looming implementation of online assessments (PARCC) will highlight how far we have come, but also how far we have to go to reach technology readiness for all students. To continue the educational and assessment process that is required of our District, we must continue to not only support our existing infrastructure but expand our connectivity.

E-Rate funding represents the only federal funding for education technology. In order to continue to ensure our students will be provided with robust digital learning opportunities it is imperative that the FCC permanently raise the E-Rate cap.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark E. Doan
Superintendent

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2803 South Banker • P.O. Box 130 • Effingham, Illinois 62401 • 217/540-1500